

VZCZCXRO1622
RR RUEHMA RUEHPA
DE RUEHMA #0182/01 0421618
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 111616Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0055
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MONROVIA 000182

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [EMIN](#) [LI](#)

SUBJECT: THIS, TOO, IS LIBERIA: FEBRUARY 11, 2010

11. (U) This round-up cable, named after a popular daily feature in a local newspaper, covers the following topics:

- INDIAN MINISTER INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT
- PROPOSED MONEY LAUNDERING LAW EXCLUDES LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
- LNP PRIORITIZES ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
- LOCAL CHIEFS PROMOTE ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN
- OVERHAUL NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DRUG SUPPLY
- PRINTING PROBLEM WITH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RESOLVED

12. (SBU) INDIAN MINISTER INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT: Indian Minister of Overseas Affairs Vayalar Ravi and Indian Ambassador Shamna Jain were seriously injured on February 3 when their vehicle was struck by a taxi on the road to the airport. The Indian officials were taken to JFK Hospital and later evacuated by UNMIL to Cote d'Ivoire. The Minister was visiting Liberia to discuss future development projects. The Liberia National Police and UNPOL are investigating the incident.

13. (SBU) PROPOSED MONEY LAUNDERING LAW EXCLUDES LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION: The draft "Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Act, 2009" does not recognize the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) as a competent authority entitled to obtain financial information from reporting entities or the Financial Investigation Unit. The bill does, however, list agencies that are expected to be abolished. The 2008 law enacting LACC gives it the authority to investigate and prosecute corruption crimes, and to freeze and confiscate assets within the boundaries of Liberian law. LACC recently obtained its first indictment in Republic of Liberia v. Albert Bropleh, the former Chairman of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority. One of the greatest challenges facing LACC is its ability to obtain financial evidence against corrupt officials, which would be aided if LACC is included in the new Money Laundering Act. Enforcement Commissioner Counselor. M. Osman Kanneh plans to address LACC's absence from the draft law with officials at the Ministry of Justice. LACC was also recently excluded from another piece of anti-corruption legislation, the Whistleblower Executive Order.

14. (U) LNP PRIORITIZES ASSISTANCE REQUESTS: Liberia National Police (LNP) Director Marc Amblard briefed donors February 5 on his six priorities for assistance to the police: Rebuild the Police Support Unit and expand it to 600; build a national communications network; develop police investigative capacity; improve police mobility; develop Information Technology (including a Local Area Network); and improve professional standards. Amblard gave several examples of measures taken to improve LNP performance, including a more rational allocation of fuel and institution of more foot patrols.

15. (U) LOCAL CHIEFS PROMOTE ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN: Traditional chiefs in all of Liberia's 15 counties are promoting the use of

mosquito nets through dance, song, and speeches, thanks to a small grant from USAID. On February 4, hundreds of people attended a special event in Tienne (Grand Cape Mount County) organized by traditional chiefs. Speakers and singers urged people to sleep under nets, and to seek prompt treatment for fever. Free mosquito nets have been distributed to 65 percent of the country since 2006, and by the end of 2010 will be distributed to 90 percent or more of households. A recent media survey conducted in three counties by USAID's major health partner, JSI, showed that 52 percent of people had nets (lower than expected), but over 80 percent of the women with children slept under a net the previous night (better than expected). Also, about 70 percent of survey respondents (women with a child) had seen a malaria message in the past month.

¶6. (U) OVERHAUL NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DRUG SUPPLY: A team of warehouse experts from the Supply Chain Management Services (SCMS) reviewed the drug situation in Liberia and recommended a complete overhaul. Their report highlights successful reorganizations in five other African countries, and the use of economical, innovative pre-engineered solutions to achieve rapid results. SCMS returns in May to assist the Ministry of Health with the development of a comprehensive Master Plan for Drug Supply, and to enlist donor and GOL buy-in on funding this Master Plan.

¶7. (U) PRINTING PROBLEM WITH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RESOLVED: Director of Vital Certificates Solo Barton from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) told Conoff that they have resumed regular issuance of birth certificates. On January 1, 2010 the Ministry

MONROVIA 00000182 002 OF 002

began a lengthy transition to a new certificate template and an in-house printing system. Consequently, the Ministry is now working through a one-month backlog of applications and expects to be current by the end of February. Director Barton also told Conoff that MOHSW has not yet completed the transition for death certificates so no death certificates have been issued in 2010. He offered no timetable for the resumption of death certificate issuance. In the meantime, letters will be issued by the Ministry for those needing immediate temporary certification.
THOMAS-GREENFIELD